"AM Canda" show taped for CTV 2/4/75; Release Zapruder Film; Confirmation my Russell Experience HW 2/5/75

CTV taped three full 20 minute segments of which mine was the first. They actually run about 17 minutes as aired.

It went well. Don Newman, Wash bureau chief, had taken the time to read WW IV, I think his assistant, Gravelle, who was there, also had.

One of the questions Newman asked me was about my relationship with Russell and his doubts- how even he came to be on the Commission.

After my day's taping was done I went off the stage and to the back of the large studio. Ex-Senator Eugene McCarthy, who was to follow me, was standing there talking to Gravelle and others. When I walked up he came over to me, put his arm around me, and told us all that Russell had told him the same story about how he came to be a member of the Commission. He was still talking, adding details, when he was called to be on.

(At about that point Senator Bill Brock, who was the third, came in and introduced himself. When he got settled I went over and spoke to him about the potential for more harm to Tennessee if it continues on the course it has followed after the coming decision. Brock was indifferent and said he had had no connection with it. I told him that my purpose in speaking to him was to let those of influence within the State be aware of the added and unnecessary hurt to the State if its attitude toward the misdeeds of the past did not change. He could not have cared less.)

McCarthy came up to me after his segment to tell me to stay in touch, he was interested.

I told him that when he had introduced a CIA-investigation resoultion about 1965 I had been unable to get past his palace guard. He laughed and said he had started offering such resolutions back in the 1950s.

Several of the WTTG production staff were interested and suggested that I see their Panorama people. I t turned out that they had also spoken to them. Later in the afternoon, a non-news producer-director Jos. Nagy asked Lesar and me if we would be willing for him to speak to their news staff about a "special." We agreed. I suggested the possibilities of syndication based on the Metromedia/me past, 1966. He gave us his card, adding his home phone number.

Late the night before, prior to bed, I'd heard a Westinghouse news item on Robert Grodin and Dick Gregory and the Sapruder film, with Robert's exaggerated account of what the film proves and what new evidence besides this they are giving to the Rockefeller Commission. Pretty sick. Gregory tied it all to the CIA, and there were strong hints about Hunt and Sturgis. I then decided that the time had come for me to make my Zap and other copies available, so before bed, I got them out. Next a.m. I offered them to WTTG and CTV. The Wttg people could say only that they were sure their people would want. CTV said they surely did and would I please be sure that a copy was made for them? I could only remind the TTG people and did when they taped from my film. We saw on Movieola as they did. (I returned there with Lesar after some medical appointments and left when I saw snow had started to accumulate. The drive home was delayed much.)

Lesar called me just before 6:30 to say that WTOP-TV had aired the film and a commentary and some of the Gregory excess. I had tried without success to reach Dave Simon at WTOP earlier, not knowing this was to happen, to offer him the film. The last time the switchboard didn t even answer! We agreed that the change in public attitudes and the current deep suspicion of government could make almost anything acceptable, but agreed also on the counterproductivity of thes ecessive claims.

On a hunch I decided to take in WTTG's 10 p.m. news. There it was. Gregorh had held a press conference and shown the film and WTTG aired the film, the fine closups Robert had isolated (for me two years ago) plus the new thing he had found (shown me six weeks ago) that he says is a man with a rifle. A man can be credited, a rifle I can't see. The same Gregory CIA jazz. And a comparioan of Hunt-Sturgis/tramps pictures.

Prior to this Robert phoned me from Washington, sort of euphoric. It seems that what inpelled him to make this release and encourage wide use was a combination of his detestation of what Lane and Skolnick (he did not mention Mae Brussel) were doing and saying, from which I take it that Lane was going much farthur than the NYTimes story indicates.; and how Gregory turned on. He had rapped with Gregory until 5 a.m. when they decided. The decision

mayykill all his movie hopes and plans (with Bob Richter, formerly CBS-TV). They have been all around with it. He is using his good print. He appears to have been the source of the film Dutch TV is to show. (I warned him about Oeltmans but he was not listening. Oeltmans is to be in DC again soon, with Fensterwald.) Hw went to a Connecticut college with Gregory. They showed the film in Chicago. (I told him about the dismayed call from Finley over the Tribune story and Robert claimed Gregory how only suggested that excess. (Finley sending story.) And of my refusal to comment on WBBM. I tried to encourage him to stick to what was clear and certain, not to improvise and give farout interpretations. He took this as referring to Gregory only and defended in part by saying he was only ~~xixing~~ raising questions. It did not get through to him him~~xxxx~~ that when he added a rifleman and claimed the film showed six assassins he was doing the same thing. I had been pretty forceful with him on this when he was here, to the point where he got upset. But it was so apparent that even his wife, Chris, had tried to reason with him on it.

The part WTTG aired had none of his six assassins. Westinghouse and CBS (WCBS radio early yesterday a.m, perhaps 5 a.m.) had aired it.

Robert was in Washington. He and Gregory are to do the WTOP Nine in the Morning show. It had been announced on the news. I asked Lesar to phone Simon at how and warn him. Dave appears to have no listed phone. I'll try to phone after daylight.

There was no commentary on this film, no explanation, so it was nothing but drama, perhaps a bit harsh with the stop-action enlargements of the head explosion. Without this explanation it seems impossible for the majority of the audience to have taken anything from the showing.

They have shown it on TV in Boston and Chicago and now Washington and apparently are going to go around with it.

What they are going to present next week is the work I had Fred Newcomb and his photog friend do for me in 1968, February. I had Fred make two negatives from original prints of the 133 Exhibit Oswald with rifle prints and overlay them. They heads or the same size produce bodies of different lengths. How this will connect with CIA remains a mystery to me. Ask does how they will use it and avoid misusing it.

I asked him if WTOP had been afraid of a LIFE suit. He said that a production-staff woman who he described as a nasty had been opposed, how phoned TIME and had been told that if WTOP used it they'd be sued. He says WTOP decided that they would are TIME to sue and so told them, that TIME had suppressed this evidence for years and it had to come out. I hope it went that way. I told him that I had earlier experiences that might help if there were to be litigation. But if he keeps on getting TV airings as he has been, Life and Time will have many suits to file.

This would be a new Post-WTOP attitude. And welcome!

This may require some backstopping. I asked Lesar if we were not now in a position to file a Complaint in the spectro case. He said the time has elapsed. I asked him to draft a politica/warebones one and we hold a press conference. He said he thinks he can get it done by tomorrow.

When Lesar and I met with Miss Feigensohn (phon) in the afternoon she was interested in a Panorama appearance but only if an adversary could be found. When I laughed and said none would oppose me, as Joe Borkin had found out when he was chairman of the National Press Club program committee, Lesar said that if they would get no opponent they would be engaging in suppression by not airing me. I added I had been on the show a humber of times alone, no opponent. We then made suggestions. I remember Liebeler (Lesar had heard he was in town), Braden, Howard Willens, Charles Shaffer, Charles Roberts, Bill Buckley, Belin (Robert and Gregory spent 1 1/2 hours with him yesterday) (She suggested Manckiewicz, I agreed) Rankin, surviving members, any reporter.

I phoned Simon 7:10. No answer. He phoned me 7:30 and I cautioned. He thinks some irrational, too, but how bell the cat Gregory? Cautions to no avail. Film clear and spectaculer and Grodin went off into James Bond and the effect was diluted at best, destroyed for those wanting it destroyed. All kinds of irrelevant crap that also is not visible to the average eye and at best unessential. JL agrees. I'm going to try to get asked to asnwer all the questions they could not, all easily answered from what I've published only.